

Board of Education Minutes

April 22nd, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in hybrid format on April 22, 2026, beginning at 5:32 PM. Present were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Friend, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mello, and Mr. Austin. Also, in attendance were Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, and Kathy Trammell, Business Manager. Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mr. Burdick were absent from this meeting.

Summary:

The North Stonington Board of Education met on April 22, 2026, and received a presentation from CABE on the superintendent search process. Community feedback highlighted strong district relationships, academic performance, and school pride, along with concerns related to communication, budget constraints, staffing capacity, and infrastructure needs. Based on survey results emphasizing trust, communication, and financial leadership, the Board agreed to proceed with a full-time superintendent search.

The Board also heard district updates on instruction, student activities, operations, and finances, including a favorable year-end projection. The Board approved the uncommitment of \$55,015 from the non-lapsing fund and adopted Policy 6141 on curriculum development. Several topics, including technology purchases and future planning items, were referred for continued discussion.

1. Call to Order

- Mrs. Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public Comment, but the Board uses this information to guide their decision-making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comments might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.

- There was no public comment.

4. Correspondence

Communications to the Superintendent or Board of Education that are intended for inclusion on a meeting agenda or to be read publicly as correspondence should clearly indicate that intent in writing at the time of submission.

- No correspondence was presented.

5. Presentations

a. Mary Broderick CABE

i. Superintendent Profile

- Mary Broderick presented a summary of community feedback gathered through focus groups and surveys involving over 100 participants. Strengths of the district included strong relationships, community pride, and high academic performance. Key challenges identified included communication gaps, budget constraints, staffing capacity, and infrastructure needs.
- Survey results indicated top priorities for the next superintendent include building trust, strong communication, and budgeting skills.

6. Reports

a. Superintendent

- The new Accountant. Curtis Kiely, began training
- Installation of 45 new security cameras at the elementary school
- Installation of 3 interactive whiteboards
- Athletic fields reported in excellent condition

b. Board Chair Report

- Town budget hearing was held, with updates provided on the district budget.
- Paraeducator contract negotiations remain ongoing.

c. Student Ambassador Reports

i. Wheeler High School (James)

- Upcoming events: Wellness Day, prom, graduation, capstone presentations
- Smarter Balanced testing underway
- College acceptances are coming in and students are completing internships as graduation approaches
- Appreciation expressed for BOE and PTO support

ii. NSES (Anna)

- Smarter Balanced and NGSS testing beginning The consultant will visit in person to meet with staff at both NSES and Wheeler.
- Upcoming events: Art show (May 7), concerts, Teacher Appreciation Week
- Continued initiatives: Food scraps program, multicultural assembly

d. March Financial Report (FY26)

- Projected favorable balance: approximately \$82,000

Motion to uncommit \$55,015 from the non-lapsing account that has already been approved. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Mello.

This motion carried unanimously.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 2, (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick)

7. Old Business

a. BOE Budget FY27

- Awaiting Board of Finance discussion

b. Superintendent Search

- Application review and interview process beginning
- Presentation materials to be posted publicly

c. Resource Officer

- No update

d. Tuition Rates

- Deferred until full Board is present

8. New Business

- None

9. Policy

a. Policy 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development

- Discussion included alignment with new legislation and curriculum processes
- Formation of a district curriculum committee noted

Motion to adopt Policy 6141. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carries by split decision.

Yea: 5, (Mr. Austin, Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mello) Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Mrs. Friend), Absent: 2 (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick)

10. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda including the minutes from 04/08/2026 and move the financials to the Board of Finance. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz.

This motion carried unanimously.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 2 (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick)

11. BOE Comments for Future Agenda Items

- Middle school sports discussion requested

12. Public Comment

- There was no public comment

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz.

This motion carried by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 2 (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick)

- The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.